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B. S. E. 1949/4.

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS

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PART 1: EMPLOYMENT, BUILDING AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES  
EMPLOYMENT - New South Wales.

Employment in New South Wales (other than rural and female domestics) rose in April by 400 to 986,900. During the previous year it had increased at the average of 2,500 a month, and the slackening in April was due mainly to disputes at two large Sydney engineering works which reduced the number of factory employees by nearly 1,400; this was offset by rises in other groups. Current additions to the work force come mainly from displaced persons and other migrants who are entering employment in increasing numbers. Initial placements of displaced persons in this State totalled 745 in April and 1,022 in May, 1949, making a total of 5,388 (3,891 men and 1,497 women) for the 14 months ended May.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES (excl. employers & workers on own a/c)

Month	WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT					Men from
	Rural	Domestics	All other Wage Earners			N.S.W. in
	Males (a)	Females(b)	Males	Females	Total	Armed Forces
	t h o u s a n d s					
1939 - July	41	52	530	168	698	6
1945 - July	23	19	541	247	788	224
1946 - July	27	20	625	243	868	44
1947 - July	26	n.a.	677	253	930	21
1948 - April		n.a.	699	260	959	16
July	31	n.a.	702	263	965	14
1949 - February		n.a.	716	268	984	13
March		n.a.	717	269	986	13
( ) April		n.a.	718	269	987	13

(a) Ascertained annually in March; permanent employees only. (b) Employed in private households.

Decreases in April of 1400 in factory employment, in the transport group (shipping and stevedoring 450 and rail & air transport 700) and in retail stores (300) were offset by increased employment in building and construction (1,200), whole-sale and wool trade (800), road transport (550) and smaller increases in the professional group (health & hospitals, law etc.). Total employment at the end of April, 1949 was 28,100 above April, 1948 and 41% above pre-war. Employment of Government authorities was 227,000 or 23% of the total in April 1949 compared with 22.7% in April 1948 and 22.3% in 1939.

EMPLOYEES IN MAIN INDUSTRIES-NEW SOUTH WALES (in thousands)

Month	Factor- ies	Building & Construct- ion.	Mining & Quarry- ing.	Transport & Commu- nication.	Retail Trade	Commerce and Finance	Profess'l & Person'l Services	Other	Total Wage & Salary Earners
1939-July	218.1	58.4	24.8	81.6	80.0	67.5	105.7	61.8	697.9
1945-July	302.3	34.9	24.9	100.5	67.7	56.7	115.4	85.5	787.9
1947-July	342.5	58.0	26.9	115.5	87.5	79.0	140.0	80.2	929.6
1948-April	354.9	60.3	28.0	120.5	91.9	83.2	143.9	76.1	958.8
July	356.4	62.2	28.3	121.2	92.2	82.5	143.7	77.4	963.9
1949-Jan.	359.1	63.5	27.2	122.7	94.9	86.1	146.5	78.7	978.7
Feb.	362.1	63.8	27.9	123.8	93.8	86.8	147.3	78.8	984.3
March	363.0	64.3	27.8	124.3	93.6	86.8	147.9	78.8	986.5
April	361.6	65.5	27.6	123.8	93.3	87.7	148.6	78.8	986.9

Commonwealth Employment Service offices report that industrial disputes, power blackouts and a trend towards lower labour turnover in some industries all have contributed to a fall in the number of unfilled vacancies registered from 39,777 at the end of March, 1949 to 38,532 in April. However, vacancies for male and female, adult and juvenile labour still exceed the number of disengaged applicants registered in all regions of the State and in all occupational groups, with the exception of the Professional and Semi-professional group. At the end of April 9,190 persons were registered for placement, including 2388 in jobs which they wished to change and many others difficult to place because of age or disabilities, e.g., 376 incapacitated miners. The greatest labour shortages were recorded for men in the metal and building trades, boys in manual and clerical jobs, and women and girls in the textile and clothing trades and the administration, commercial and clerical group. Only 150 men and 14 women were in receipt of unemployment benefits at the end of April.



AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES - New South Wales & Australia.

Air transport services in Australia continue to expand rapidly. Mileage flown by all services rose from approx. 14 mill. in 1938-39 and 22 mill. in 1945-46 to 29 mill. in the year 1947 and 36 mill. in 1948. The number of passengers carried increased from 148,000 in 1938-39 to 1.04 mill. in 1947 and 1.37 mill. in 1948; and the weight of freight and mails carried from 1,100 tons to 19,200 tons and 32,700 tons.

Over half of the air traffic in the Commonwealth is handled on lines with terminals in New South Wales. On inter-state routes with terminals in this State passenger traffic rose from 483,000 in 1947 to 636,000 in 1948, while passenger traffic within the State increased from 74,000 to 110,000 and on over-sea routes from 38,000 to 43,000, making a total increase of 33% in passenger traffic over the year. Freight and mail carried on routes with N.S.W. terminals increased by 57% in 1948, from 9,867 tons to 15,531 tons, mainly due to heavier inter-state traffic. Freight traffic within the State showed a small decline in 1948. Total mileage flown on all routes with N.S.W. terminals has risen at the rate of about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million miles a year from 5 mill. in 1944-45 to 23 mill. in 1948.

REGULAR CIVILIAN AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES - New South Wales

	Year ended June				Year ended December	
	1945	1946	1947	1948	1947	1948
<u>Passenger Journeys</u>	Thousand Persons					
Intrastate	4	8	54	96	74	110
Interstate	134	198	398	570	483	636
Oversea	6	16	32	42	38	43
All Services	144	222	484	708	595	789
<u>Freight &amp; Mail Carried</u>	Tons					
Intrastate	5	24	358	471	488	458
Interstate	3,107	3,199	6,155	11,145	8,387	13,756
Oversea	140	717	814	1,208	992	1,317
All Services	3,252	3,940	7,327	12,824	9,867	15,531
<u>Miles Flown</u>	Thousand miles					
All Services	5,439	10,689	15,794	21,655	19,047	23,305

Note: Regular Air Services with terminal in New South Wales as shown in returns published by Department of Civil Aviation. Intra-state passengers carried on interstate lines counted in the latter service.

IRON & STEEL PRODUCTION:

Shortages of coal and labour are keeping output of iron and steel below plant capacity. Pig iron production in New South Wales for the ten months ended April was 739,000 tons in 1949 as against 864,000 tons in 1948 and steel output 905,000 tons as against 1.06 mill. tons. Pig iron output at Whyalla South Australia (Much of which is used in New South Wales steelworks) is at present interrupted by an industrial dispute.

IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION - N.S.W. & Whyalla S.A. (Thousand Tons.)

	Yearly Average		Year		Ten Months ended April	
	1937-1939	1940-1945	1946-47	1947-48	1948	1949
Pig Iron: N.S.W.	983	1,304	926	1,030	864	739
Whyalla S.A.	-	139 (a)	218	206	173	141
Ingot Steel: N.S.W.	1,134	1,470	1,315	1,343	1,063	905

(a) Average for 1941-1944.

# NEW BUILDING, New South Wales.

The number of new houses and flat units completed in New South Wales rose rapidly from 3,640 in March quarter, 1948 to a peak of 5,423 in December quarter but fell back to 3,950 in March 1949. The decrease was only partly seasonal, being much greater than in the March quarters of 1948 and 1947. In 1949 it occurred mainly in Government-owned houses and flats (Housing Commission, Local Government and Public Departments) which comprised 29% of completions in the year 1948 and only 19% in March 1949. Although the reduction in commencements of new buildings in December quarter 1948, continued, the number in March quarter 1949, 5,140 was still well above March quarter 1948. Completions in the 1949 period were only 77% of the quarter's commencements and equivalent to 14% of the dwellings in building during the quarter, compared with 81% of commencements for the year 1948. A record number of 23,635 houses and flats remained uncompleted in March, 1949.

## NEW HOUSES AND FLATS, New South Wales

(Includes owner-built houses, but excludes some farm-houses & military huts, converted)

Period	AUTHORISED (a)	UNCOMPLETED at beg. of period	COMMENCED in period	Total in building	COMPLETED in period	UNCOMPLETED at end of period
Year-1946 (b)	26,840	4,800	16,810	21,610	9,550	12,060
-1947	29,249	12,060	19,585	31,645	13,556	18,089
-1948	30,983	18,089	22,397	40,486	18,041	22,445
Quarter						
1948- March	6,499	18,089	4,772	22,861	3,640	19,221
June	8,232	19,221	6,013	25,234	4,407	20,827
September	7,782	20,827	6,219	27,046	4,571	22,475
December	8,470	22,475	5,393	27,868	5,423	22,445
1949- March	8,087	22,445	5,140	27,585	3,950	23,635

"Uncompleted" include some houses occupied prior to completion

(a) Permits issued for private houses plus contracts let for Government houses

(b) Approximations

Adding all types of dwellings, the number completed since the end of the war now exceeds 50,000. This includes approx. 45,800 houses, 1,400 flat units, 3,589 dwellings in converted military huts and a number of houses on farms (525 in the year March, 1948).

## PRODUCTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS -- New South Wales.

Output of the principal building materials in New South Wales in March quarter 1949, was below the previous quarter, partly owing to the January holiday period. Compared respectively with March quarters of 1948 production of bricks was 4.5 million greater; of terra cotta tiles 350,000 greater; of asbestos cement sheets 270,000 sq.yds greater, and of cement 17,000 tons greater. Production of tiles, asbestos cement sheets, fibrous plaster, timber and cement was well above pre-war levels, but brick output has not yet regained that level.

## PRODUCTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS - New South Wales.

Period	Bricks millions	Terra-cotta Tiles millions	Asbestos Cement Sheets mill.sq.yds	Timber Local Sawn mill.super ft.	Cement 000 tons
1938-39 per quarter	94.8	5.03	1.34	44.8	108
1947 March quarter	55.2	4.71	2.11	66.6	90
1948 March quarter	68.7	5.02	1.91	75.3	97
June quarter	81.1	5.69	2.09	80.4	110
Sept. quarter	89.5	6.57	2.31	83.6	127
Dec. quarter	82.5	6.10	2.22	95.3	107
1949 March quarter	73.2	5.37	2.18	87.5	114

Doubling of local timber supplies since the war has partly compensated for the fall in oversea imports of timber, from 200 mill. sup.ft in 1938-39 to 73 mill.sup.ft. in 1947-48. Oversea supplies somewhat improved during the current year and imports for the nine months ended March, 1949 totalled 84 million sup.ft.

## COAL PRODUCTION-New South Wales

Coal output in the first five months of the current year was the highest for that period since 1942. Weekly output for the two weeks after Easter 1949 reached 269,000 tons, and for the 18 weeks ended 21st May it averaged 239,000 tons, as against 219,000 tons and 203,000 tons in comparable periods of 1948 and 1947. Output from open-cuts contributed about 12% of the total in 1949.



PRODUCTION OF COAL -New South Wales-in thousand tons

	Yearly Ave.	Y e a r				Period ended (a)		
	1937-39	1942	1946	1947	1948	24-5-47	22-5-48	21-5-49
Underground	10,273	12,150	10,430	10,724	10,467	3,756	3,710	3,784
Open-cut	-	56	756	959	1,254	308	458	510
T o t a l	10,273	12,206	11,186	11,683	11,721	4,064	4,168	4,294

(a) 20 weeks, in 1947, 19 weeks in 1948, and 18 weeks in 1949.

Even at the present comparatively high rate, production is insufficient to satisfy all demands for current consumption and to restore depleted stocks. Joint Coal Board figures show a rise in the weekly rate of coal consumption within New South Wales from 165,200 tons in March quarter, 1948 to 175,700 in 1949. During the latter period the State railways used an average of 29,400 tons a week (locomotives only), electricity generation 41,300 tons, gas works 16,800 tons, iron and steel refineries 37,000 tons, other industrial users 31,600 tons and ships' bunkers 11,400 tons a week.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY - Sydney and New South Wales.

Electricity generated in New South Wales was reduced from 324 mill.kwh in March, 1949 to 299 mill.kwh in April, but exceeded production in the same month of earlier years and nearly doubled that of pre-war. Production in Sydney is insufficient for the increasing winter demand and supplies are being interrupted for short periods in different areas. The Government appointed an Emergency Electricity Commissioner on 3rd May to control supplies; regulations gazetted on 18th May restrict the use of power in homes, shops etc., and ordered factories to reduce their electricity consumption as from the 1st June to 70% of the maximum load used in June-August, 1948. Continuing to increase N.S.W. gas production in April, was 1,536 mill.cub.ft., compared with 1,498 mill. cub.ft. and 1,363 mill.cub.ft. in April, 1948 and 1947. The seasonally adjusted index of gas and electricity consumption in the Sydney area receded from the record of 191 (91% above pre-war) in March to 188 in April, but was 4.4% above that for April 1948.

G A S A N D E L E C T R I C I T Y - Year and Month

N.S.W. Production	Year ended June			1947	1948	1949	1949
	1939	1947	1948	April	April	March	April
Gas mill.cub.ft.	10,896	16,744	18,093	1,363	1,498	1,531	1,536
Electricity mill.kwh	1,948	3,229	3,546	264	297	324	299
Gas & El'y Consumption, Sydney							
Index-1937-39=100 (a)	104	161	174	164	180	191	188

(a) seasonally adjusted.

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS

Railway traffic in March and April, 1949 was slightly less than in the same months of 1948. For the ten months ended April the number of passenger journeys totalled 219.6 mill. in 1948 and 218.9 in 1949, and goods tonnage 14.55 mill.tons and 14.32 mill.tons respectively. Working expenses continue to rise at a faster rate than earnings, and the surplus on working of £4.24 mill. for the ten months is the lowest since 1938-39.

Comparing the ten months ended April, 1949 with 1939: passenger traffic increased by 40% and goods traffic by 20%; gross earnings rose by 108% and working expenses by 148%, leaving an increase of £30,000 in the surplus on working account.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

Y e a r	Ten Months ended April					Month of April	
	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Net (a)	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock.)
	Millions	mill.tons.	£.mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	Millions	Million Tons
1939	156.3	11.98	15.81	11.60	4.21	15.1	1.14
1947	216.3	13.78	25.44	20.70	4.74	22.0	1.32
1948	219.6	14.55	30.40	24.86	5.54	22.9	1.55
1949	218.9	14.32	32.96	28.72	4.24	22.7	1.33

(a) Excess of gross earnings over working expenses; excluding Government contribution of £800,000 for developmental lines.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATIONS - New South Wales.

The rate of new motor vehicle registrations remains very high. In April, 1949 2,222 cars and 1,064 new commercial vehicles were registered in this State, compared with the monthly average of 1,800 and 906 for 1948. The record number of 231,800 cars and 142,600 commercial vehicles were on the State register at the end of April, representing increases of 7% and 81% respectively since August, 1939.

In new registrations the proportion of British cars rose from 20% to 40% of the total in the 1930's to 70% in 1948 and 80% in the first four months of 1949, and for commercial vehicles from 20% pre-war to 44% in 1949. Australia is now the principal export market for British cars and commercial vehicles and the second largest export buyer of British agricultural tractors. Exports of cars (complete and chassis) from the United Kingdom for 1948 totalled about 227,000 valued at £stg60.17 mill. of which Australia took 53,400 valued at £12.18 mill.; and exports of commercial vehicles were 75,100 valued at £36.76 mill. of which Australia took 11,600 valued at £4.90 mill. (statistics as given by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Ltd).

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, New South Wales (excl. Motor Cycles)

P e r i o d	New Vehicles Registered			Civilian Vehicles on Register		
	Cars	Lorries(a)	Total	Cars	Lorries(a)	Total
	Monthly Averages			as at end of period		
				000	000	000
1937-39	1,748	736	2,484	216.6	78.7	295.3(b)
1942-45	36	192	228	185.7	86.0	271.7(b)
1946	320	429	749	195.4	108.8	304.2
1947	1,018	664	1,682	205.9	124.5	330.4
1948	1,800	906	2,706	225.4	138.6	364.0
1948-March Quarter	1,178	663	1,841	208.9	127.4	336.3
April	1,776	781	2,557	210.4	128.6	339.0
1949-March Quarter	1,787	899	2,686	230.1	141.5	371.6
April	2,222	1,064	3,286	231.8	142.6	374.4

(a) Includes utilities, vans and road tractors. (b) As at 31st August 1939 and 1945

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - New South Wales

A one-day stoppage in protest against the imprisonment of a Union Official and a number of other short disputes caused the loss of 24,000 man-working days in coal mines in April. Dispute losses in other industries, aggregating 50,000 manworking days for the month, included about 8,000 at the Captain's Flat mine (settled at the end of the month), 19,000 at the Clyde Engineering Works (still pending), 9,000 at Bradford Kendall Ltd. (now settled), and a number of other disputes in engineering works and on the waterfront.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - New South Wales

Annual	Coal	Other	Total	Monthly	Coal	Other	Total
Averages	Mining	Employment		Averages	Mining	Employment	
	Thousand Man-Days Lost				Thousand Man-Days Lost		
1937-39	766	178	644	1937-39	39	15	54
1940-44	473	338	811	1948	40	25	65
1945	630	1249	1879	1949-Jan.	9	12	21
1946	299	617	916	Feb.	32	13	45
1947	388	739	1127	Mar.	46	53	99
1948	471	304	775	April	24	50	74



## PART 11: FINANCE AND TRADE

TRADING BANKS - Australia.

High export proceeds and capital inflow from overseas are reflected in mounting bank deposits. In April, 1949 trading bank deposits reached the record figure of £831 million; an increase of £152 million (taking into account a statistical adjustment in January) in the eight months of current export season, compared with an increase of £80 million in the same period of 1947-48. This expansion in credit base has been partly countered by redeposit requirements on the Commonwealth Bank Special Accounts which rose from £280 million or 40% of deposits in April, 1948 to £379 million or 46% in 1949. Bank advances rose from £360 million in March, 1949 to £373 million, reversing a steady decline since November, 1948. Recent increases in Special Accounts and advances were accompanied by a fall in the banks' holdings of cash and Treasury bills. In April these two "liquid assets" amounted to only about 7½% of customers' deposits in 1949 as against 11.4% in 1948 and 10% in 1947. "Balances due to other banks", representing mainly Commonwealth Bank advances to certain trading banks, were £34 million in April 1949 compared with £17 million in 1948 and £2 million in 1947.

NINE TRADING BANKS - Business within Australia.

Month (Weekly Averages)	Deposits at credit of customers	Balances due to Other Banks	Advances to customers	Public Secur- ities	Special A/c with C'wth Bank	Treas -ury Bills	Cash Items	Ratios to Deposits	
								Advan- ces	Spec- ial A/c
	£ m i l l i o n							%	%
1939-April	323	1	290	22	-	26	31	90	-
1946-April	636	1	215	123	258	63	35	34	41
1947-April	659	2	278	82	280	29	36	42	43
1947-August	629	3	308	76	240	11	41	49	38
1948-March	706	18	334	59	275	26	49	47	39
April	709	17	338	59	280	31	50	48	40
August	668	36	362	60	272	12	46	53	40
1949-January	791 (a)	28	373(a)	61	321	32	54	46	41
February	813 (a)	32	363(a)	62	344	32	51	45	42
March	826 (a)	31	360(a)	65	365	28	48	43	44
April	831 (a)	34	373(a)	63	379	19	44	45	46

(a) Following a technical adjustment in bank returns, deposits and advances were reduced by £9 million as from January, 1949.

On 17th May, 1949 the Commonwealth Bank revised the advance policy to be followed by the trading banks. Because of the necessity of limiting excessive demand for goods, in particular capital goods, banks are advised to grant new advances for development and expansion only to firms with adequate capital resources which cannot obtain funds outside the banking system; to restrict loans for enterprises of doubtful economic value or involving a high degree of risk; and to refuse loans encouraging day-to-day expenditure beyond current income.

An official analysis of bank advances in December, 1948 shows that they are well spread over the different sectors of the economy. Advances to primary industries were £110 million or 26.6% of the total (but these are subject to considerable seasonal fluctuations), to manufacturers 21.2%, to financiers for building and other purposes 11.8%, personal advances for building or home-purchasing 9.6% and advances to wholesale and retail traders 15.7%. Comparison with a similar analysis (but based on somewhat different dates and classifications) made in 1936 for the Royal Commission on Banking, indicates that advances for manufacturing and building have considerably increased in recent years; advances for "manufacturing and mining" amounted to only £24 million or 9% out of a total of approx. £262 mill. in 1936.

The advances of the nine trading banks and the trading departments of the Commonwealth Bank in December, 1948 were classified as follows:-

	Amount	% of total		Amount	% of total
Agriculture & Dairying	£59 mill.	14.1	Commerce	£65 mill.	15.7%
Grazing	£51 mill.	12.5	Personal Advances:		
Manufacturing	£87 mill.	21.2	Build'g & Home Purch.	£40 mill.	9.6
Transport & Communic'n.	£ 8 mill.	2.0	Other Personal	£20 mill.	4.8
Finance & Property	£49 mill.	11.8	Other borrowers	£34 mill.	8.3
			T o t a l	£413 mill.	100%

# SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS:

New deposits on New South Wales savings accounts are running at a high rate but withdrawals are also substantial, leaving only small accessions to the total. Savings balances at the end of April reached a new peak of £240.5 mill., an increase of £2.6 million for the first four months of the year, compared with £1.5 million for January-April 1948. The full results of the present savings campaign will not be shown until June when the group collections for the first quarter will be deposited by employers. Deposits with all savings banks in Australia in January-April, 1949 increased by £11.2 million to £699.6 million.

## SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (£million)

P e r i o d	New South Wales				Total Deposits at end of Period	
	Deposits Lodged	Withdrawals made	Net Increase (+) or decrease (-)	Interest added	N.S.W.	Australia
1938/39 July-June	66.6	67.2	- 0.6	1.6	87.5	245.6
1945/46 July-June	191.3	156.8	+34.5	3.6	236.3	663.6
1946/47 July-June	159.2	167.9	- 8.7	3.8	231.4	660.0
1947-48 July-June	161.0	159.2	+ 1.8	3.8	237.0	681.3
1948-49 July-April	143.0	139.5	+ 3.5	-	240.5	699.6
1948-January-April	41.7	40.2	+ 1.5	-	232.8	667.9
1949-January-April	57.7	55.1	+ 2.6	-	240.5	699.6

1949-50 July-June

When the issue of savings certificates ceased in February, 1949 a total of £98.5 million had been issued in Australia of which £33.6 million had already been redeemed, leaving £64.8 million outstanding (£27.5 million in New South Wales. A further £1.4 million was redeemed in March and April, 1949. About two thirds of the certificates were issued during the war years. Sales since the end of the war averaged only £810,000 a month and sales net of redemptions £270,000 a month (£360,000 and £200,000 a month in New South Wales).

# NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS:

The deficiency on the State accounts was reduced from £1.77 million for the nine months ended March, 1949 to £500,000 by the end of April, due to the receipt of a large instalment of tax reimbursements. The deficiency for the ten months period of 1947-48 was £750,000. State revenue for the ten months rose from £69.22 million to £77.42 million; principal increases were in Commonwealth tax reimbursements (from £13.60 to 16.15 m) stamp and probate duties and miscellaneous receipts. An increase of £2.89 million in railway revenue was exceeded by a rise of £3.89 million in railway expenditure, but higher revenue from trams and buses and Sydney Harbour exceeded increased expenditure on those accounts.

## NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS (£ millions)

R e v e n u e I t e m	Actual 10 mths ended April		Estimate Year	E x p e n d i t u r e I t e m	Actual 10 mths ended April		Estimate Year
	1948	1948	1948-49		1948	1948	1948-49
From Commonwealth(1)	17.0	19.6	26.9	Net Debt Charges	12.3	12.7	15.6
State Taxation	7.1	8.2	9.6	Other ex " "			
Other Governmental	7.1	8.0	9.7	Governmental	25.3	28.7	36.8
Railways	30.2	33.1	38.6	Railways	25.0	28.8	33.0
Tram & Bus Services	6.7	7.2	9.0	Tram & Bus Serv.	6.8	6.9	8.8
Sydney Harbour	1.1	1.3	1.4	Sydney Harbour	0.6	0.8	0.9
TOTAL REVENUE	69.2	77.4	95.2	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	70.0	77.9	95.1

(1) Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interest, hospital benefits & controls administration.

Loan fund expenditure on works totalled £15.06 million for the ten months of 1948-49 compared with £12.05 million in the same period of 1947-48.



# SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE:

After a substantial decline in February and March prices at the Sydney Stock Exchange began to recover after Easter and the tendency early in May was firm and steady. However, during the second half of the month prices weakened considerably, and industrial shares reached their lowest level since the lifting of restrictions (December, 1946) in the first week of June.

Factors contributing to this recession were: a seasonal tendency for share demand to ease towards the end of the financial year; concern about the effects of power rationing and rising costs on industry, heavy demands on the market by recent capital issues; weakness on British and American stock and commodity exchanges and apprehension about future trends in Australian export prices. The industrial share price index, over the whole month of May was 340.8, compared with 338.8 in April, but the retail and public utilities series were lower than in April.

## INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY

Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. banks). Par value= 100  
(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician)

M o n t h	Manufact'g & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939-August	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942-March	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1946-December	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
1947-May	329.2	314.8	196.9	172.6	391.7	257.1	272.4
1948-January	361.4	315.5	184.7	191.7	407.8	271.5	283.7
May	359.1	315.1	178.4	186.7	403.5	265.9	277.1
1949-March	345.1	288.3	165.2	180.6	464.1	254.6	262.2
April	338.8	286.9	160.7	171.0	466.5	250.7	255.8
May	340.8	283.2	158.8	179.9	469.5	251.5	256.7

NOTE: Regulations restricting trading and price movements in company shares imposed in February, 1942, with subsequent amendments, were rescinded in January, 1947.

## COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTS:

Commonwealth revenue for the eleven months ended May was £469.7 mill. in 1949; or £76.5 mill. more than in 1948. Main increases were in tax revenue (particularly customs and income tax) in collection of contributory charges from primary producers (£10.8 mill.) and by transfer of surplus trust funds to a war gratuity reserve, as shown by an increase of £17 mill. in miscellaneous revenue. Revenue from customs and pay-roll tax for the 11 months already exceeded the total budgeted for the year, and receipts from other major tax sources are running at or above the budget rate. Collections of income tax (including social services contribution) was £213.3 mill. in July-May as against £181.5 mill. in the eleven months of 1947-48; £51.4 mill. was collected in June, 1948. Defence and post-war expenditure was £16 mill. higher in the 1948-49 period and other expenditure rose from £230.1 mill. to £302 mill.

## COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS (£millions)

R e v e n u e				E x p e n d i t u r e			
I t e m	Actual 11 months ended May		Estimate Year 1948-49	I t e m	Actual 11 months ended May		Estimate Year 1948-49
	1948	1949			1948	1949	
Customs & Excise	105.7	115.1	115.0	Social Services	63.5	86.1	92.0
Sales Tax	31.6	35.5	38.0	Paid to States:			
Income Tax & S.S.C	181.5	213.3	246.0	Tax Reimbursement	38.5	46.4	53.4
Payroll Tax	15.2	18.0	18.0	Other (States)	18.9	21.9	24.5
Other taxes	12.3	11.5	14.0	Post Office	26.1	32.5	32.5
Total Taxation	346.3	393.4	431.0	Self-Balancing (a)	8.4	19.1	16.7
Post Office	28.6	30.2	32.8	Departmental & Other	74.7	96.0	112.9
Self-balancing(a)	8.3	19.1	16.7	Total of above	230.1	302.0	332.0
Other	10.0	27.0	29.0	Defence & Post-War(b)	154.9	170.8	195.2
TOTAL REVENUE	393.2	469.7	509.5	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	385.0	472.8	527.2

(a) Charges on flour, wheat and wool, earmarked for assistance to these industries.

(b) Includes expenditure from loan fund £3.3 mill. in 1948 and £3.0 mill. in 1949, but omits special credits from Trust a/c's of £18.3 mill. in 1949. 1948-49 budget provides for defence & post-war exp. of £177.5 m. from revenue and £17.7m. from loan funds.

Revenue surplus and loan monies have been used to reduce Treasury bill circulation in Australia from £400 mill. in February, 1946 and £223 mill. in May 1948 to £148 mill. in May 1949.

# RETAIL TRADE (Large Sydney Stores)

The rate of expansion in the value of retail sales (large Sydney stores) which had slowed down towards the end of 1948 is again quickening and sales in March quarter, 1949 were 17% above 1948 (21% in the month of March but there were 27 working days in 1949 as against 24 in 1948). This increase exceeded the rise of 13% in the retail price indexes for both food and clothing. The Commonwealth Bank's retail sales index rose from a pre-war average of 100 to 178 in March quarter 1947, 221 in 1948 and about 249 in 1949. Although no longer advancing at the rapid rate of the immediate post-war period retail turnovers therefore, are being maintained at a high level. Trade reports state that buyers are becoming more selective and react against high prices, in particular in luxury goods but there is no evidence of diminished public spending. A more cautious attitude by traders is indicated by the present slow rate of increase in stock values. The increase during the year ended March was only 7% in 1948-49, as against 30% in 1947-48 and 38% in 1946-47.

## RETAIL TRADE - LARGE SYDNEY STORES

Percentage Increase on same period of previous year

Three months moving Average ended month shown	VALUE OF S A L E S			M o n t h	VALUE OF S T O C K S		
	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49		1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	%	%	%		%	%	%
October	35	27	8	October	21	25	16
November	24	24	8	November	29	28	14
December	25	17	13	December	38	26	12
January	22	17	16	January	39	24	11
February	22	19	15	February	39	24	8
March	15	20	17	March	38	30	7
Increase six months ended March	20	18	15		33	26	11

Principal increases in retail sales in the month of March 1949 over 1948 were in piece goods (30%), men's wear (26%) and electrical goods (66%); the latter is reported to be mainly attributable to the demand for heavy equipment-washing machines, refrigerators and ranges - rather than for smaller appliances. Main increases in stock values were in household piecegoods, hosiery, men's wear, shoes, hardware and sports goods, while stock values of fancy drapery, furniture, books and stationery were less than last year.

Between 1939 and March, 1949 retail trade employment in New South Wales increased from 80,000 to 93,600 and shop assistants' award wage rates (males) increased by about 80%. However, because of the increase in retail turnovers during the period (approx. 150%) the ratio of remuneration paid to total Sales of large Sydney stores was reduced from about 17% in March, 1939 to 13.6% in 1949.

### CASH ORDER BUSINESS-New South Wales.

The face value of cash orders issued in this State in March quarter 1949 was £439,000 or 13% above 1948, the same as the average rate of increase for the year 1948. Cash orders are issued mainly to finance purchases of clothing and household manchester and furnishings. Cash order turnover has increased recently at about the rate as has the retail price index for clothing and thus it appears that in value trading in cash orders has not risen. Cash order turnover recovered from the war-time decline and in 1948 at £2.89 mill. was back at the pre-war level, but when allowing for the rise in prices and retail turnovers, cash order trade is now of much less importance than before the war, apparently because of high prevailing wage levels and absence of unemployment.

### CASH ORDERS ISSUED - New South Wales.

Y e a r	Quarter Ended				Total for Year	
	March	June	September	December	Value	Number
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	000
1939 (a)					2,867	
1946	282	551	453	734	2,020	314
1947	337	693	585	915	2,530	274
1948	388	825	651	1033	2,897	292
1949	439					
Increase on Previous Year	13%	19%	11%	13%	14%	7%

(a) Report on Cash Orders, 1941.



# PRICES IN AUSTRALIA

Price levels in Australia have moved upward continuously since the end of 1947 influenced by rises in import costs, export returns, labour costs (reflecting shorter hours and higher wages), the withdrawal of subsidies and relaxation of Government price controls. The rise in import and export prices is now slackening and eventually this will affect local price trends.

The retail price index "C" series Sydney on basis of 3 years ended June, 1939 = 100) rose by 7% between March quarter 1947 and 1948 and by a further 10% to March quarter, 1949. It now stands at 54% above 1937-39. Both food and clothing price indexes advanced by 13% in the 1948-49 period. Advances in the component series of the retail price index differed markedly: comparing 1949 with the pre-war average increases ranged from 130% in clothing to 52% in food, 43% in miscellaneous series (which includes household draperies and utensils, fuel and light, etc.) and 7% in the rent series. The basic wage (adult males, Sydney) rose from £4.2.0 a week in May, 1939 and about £5 in 1943-46 to £5.16.0 in May, 1948 (including special increase of 7/- granted in December, 1946) and £6.7.0 in May, 1949.

The wholesale price index, Australia, rose by 13½% between March quarter 1948 and 1949. Textile prices, because of the withdrawal of subsidies, advanced by 21% over the year to 269% above pre-war and food and tobacco prices also rose substantially. Price increases occurred mainly in home produced goods while the price index for goods which are principally imported steadied after reaching a peak, equivalent to about 100% above pre-war, in June, 1948. The Commonwealth Bank's import price index for all goods doubled during the war years and rose by another 37% to 175 above pre-war between March quarters 1945 and 1948, but since then it has remained fairly steady and was 281 in December and March quarters 1948-49.

Export prices have risen sharply since the end of the war and have moved the terms of trade in Australia's favour. The index doubled between March quarters 1946 and 1948, and a further advance of 17% brought it to 259% above pre-war in 1949. Principal rises during the 1948-49 period were 26% for wool (which represents nearly half of total exports) and 48% for non-ferrous metals. However, prices for both commodities began to recede from April, 1949 onward and the wheat export price index in March was already 14% below the peak of May, 1948. Prices for most other important export commodities are fixed under long-term commodity agreements with the United Kingdom so that any further immediate rise in export price levels seems unlikely.

PRICE INDEXES - AUSTRALIA. Basis 1936-37 to 1938-39 = 100

March Quarter	Retail Prices (a)	Wholesale Prices (b)	Export Prices incl. gold (b)	Import Prices (c)
1943	127	136	114	n.a.
1945	126	140	131	199
1947	132	143	215	235
1948	141	163	307	275
1949 (d)	154	185	359	281

(a) All items "C" Series, Sydney

(b) Commonwealth Statistician

(c) Commonwealth Bank Index

(d) Subject to revision

Wholesale and retail prices in the United Kingdom rose by about 4% during 1948, but did not advance further in the March quarter of 1949. Retail and wholesale prices in the United States reached a peak in August, 1948 when the cost of living index (Bureau of Labor Statistics) was 75% above the 1935-39 average, but by January, 1949 it had fallen to about 2% below the 1948 peak.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - New South Wales.

The number and value of real estate transactions registered in this State are at record levels. During the first five months of the year 34,876 transfers, valued at £26.33 mill., were registered compared with 30,550 transfers valued at £24.74 mill. in the same period of 1948. The value of new mortgages registered is also increasing; in the five months it was £14.15 mill. this year and £13.33 mill. in 1948, but, in proportion to transfers it remains lower than pre-war.

REGISTERED REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - New South Wales

		Year				5 Months ended May	
		Av. 1936-38	1946	1947	1948	1948	1949
Sales Transactions	No.	44,375	81,196	80,592	80,597	30,550	34,876
Sales Considerat'n	£mill.	36.11	50.68	57.22	59.46	24.74	26.33
Mortgages Consid'n	£mill.	23.76	21.37	25.99	31.46	13.33	14.15

PART 111: RURAL INDUSTRIES

THE SEASON:

Grazing and wheat districts benefited from good rainfalls towards the end of May and seasonal conditions were generally satisfactory for the primary industries.

RAINFALL INDEX - NEW SOUTH WALES.

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall=100 for each month & Year

	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts				Coastal Dairying Districts			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total
1946-Year	77	68	101	87	83	62	69	102	88	84	89	80	85
1947-Year	126	131	119	145	127	118	130	124	125	118	109	96	113
1948-Year	102	103	99	92	101	98	100	96	97	106	95	96	102
1949-Jan.	95	83	55	41	73	111	78	52	66	83	147	126	105
Feb.	224	174	114	181	170	225	167	112	140	115	222	138	145
Mar.	99	147	227	388	186	64	152	248	200	161	165	145	160
April	91	82	51	85	75	118	72	56	68	79	79	37	74
May	45	98	129	165	101	41	91	120	103	82	68	138	85

N.Northern; C. Central; S.Southern; W.Western.

W O O L:

Wool deliveries into New South Wales stores for the ten months ended April, 1949 totalled 1.13 million bales, compared with 989,000 bales for the same period of 1947-48 and 1.07 million bales for the whole 1947-48 season. No estimates for the 1948-49 clip are available yet, but the rate of wool deliveries into store and the increase in sheep numbers indicate that the current clip will show a partial recovery from the drought levels of previous years. After the interruption in March sales were resumed on 11th April but a backlog of 300,000 bales remained unsold in store at the end of the month. Oversea exports of wool from New South Wales since the opening of the sales season (8 months ended April) totalled 843,000 bales, valued at £47 million.

RECEIVALS, DISPOSALS AND STOCKS OF WOOL.  
(N.S.W.Stores excl.Albury - Thousand Bales)

	1948-49			1947-48
	Sydney	Newcastle & Goulburn	Total N.S.W.	Total N.S.W.
Carry-over from June	14	1	15	41
Receipts, July to April	911	218	1129	989
Total	925	219	1144	1030
Disposals, July to April	653	191	844	933
Balance in Store at end of April	272	28	300	97

Sales of wool in Australia for the ten months ended April, 1949 totalled 2.53 million bales, realising £158 million; this already exceeds the record of £155.5 million realised for the whole 1947-48 clip. Full clearances were made at the May sales in Sydney and the market held firmly at the price levels of the previous month. The average price for May, 44<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d per lb.greasy was below the February peak though still 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d above the average for the 1947-48 season.

AVERAGE PRICE OF GREASY WOOL-New South Wales-Pence per lb.

Year Ended June						
1928	1931	1939	1941 & 1942	1943 to 1946	1947	1948
1915	8.7	10.3	13.1(a)	15.1(a)	23.6	37.9
Year 1948-49 (b)						
June	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. & Jan.	Feb.& Mar.	April May
47.5	47.0	43.5	48.5	53.0	54.5	44.0 44.5

(a) On basis of British Government contract. (b) Average that would be realised if whole clip were sold at price level of that month.



W H E A T:

Good autumn rains fell in the wheat districts and, unlike last year when the previous harvest was protracted, farmers had sufficient time for soil preparations, so that sowings began in April under very favourable conditions. Departmental reports suggest that there will be an increase over last year in the area sown to wheat in most districts. Wheat exports from New South Wales to overseas countries for the six months ended April, 1949 totalled 22½ million bushels (incl. wheat equivalent of flour) valued at £18 million.

The Australian wheat crop for 1948-49 is estimated at 189.67 million bushels (66 million bushels from N.S.W.); this is well above the long-term harvest average and has been exceeded only in a few record years such as 1947-48 (220 million bushels), 1939-40 and 1930-31, 1931-32 and 1932-33. Record or near record harvests were gathered in 1948-49 in Victoria and Queensland. The average yield of 14.56 bushels per acre for Australia (15.42 b. per acre in N.S.W.) was also well above average.

Good harvests in 1948 in North America, Europe and Australia have eased the world grain supply position and all demands, for which finance and procurement was available, was fully met. The Food & Agriculture Organization estimates world wheat production in 1948 at 143.4 mill. tons, compared with 128.6 mill. tons in 1947 and an average of 126.7 tons in 1934-38; world population has increased by approx. 11% between 1936 and 1948. American wheat prices have receded by about a third from the peak reached in 1947. Canadian export wheat (see table below) rose from 62 cents per bushel in 1939 to 329 cents in December, 1947 and was down to 218 cents by April, 1949. The Australian Wheat Board's export price reached a peak of £1.0.10 per bushel in February-May, 1948 and declined to 15/4 in March and April 1949.

WHEAT EXPORT PRICE - Australia and Canada

	Year 1939	Year 1946	Dec. 1947	April 1948	Dec. 1948	April 1949
A/au Wheat Board			Pence per Bushel (1)			
Basic Exp. Price	29	131	238	250	190	184
No. 1 Nth. Manitoba			Cents per Bushel			
basis Store Fort	62	135	329	271	241	218
William						

(1) Average bulk and bagged; f.o.r. ports; for 1939 shippers' limits f.o.r. ports.

The above Australian prices do not apply to wheat sold under special agreements, e.g.: The United Kingdom contract providing for sale of 60 mill. bushels (incl. 25 million bushels as flour), at 13/8 a bushel for deliveries to 31st March, 1949 and 12/10½ for April-June deliveries, plus an extra 4½d or 1/- per bushel for shipments under this contract to certain other countries. The New Zealand contract provides for 2½ million bushels to be delivered in the second half of 1949 at 15/- a bushel. Under the proposed International Wheat Agreement which, if ratified, is to operate from 1st August, 1949, Australia could export up to 80 million bushels a year for four years at prices ranging from a maximum of about 11/2½d a bushel (U.S. \$1.80) to a minimum falling from 9/3¼d in the first year, by 7½d a year to 7/5¼d (U.S. \$1.20) in 1952-53.

DAIRYING:

With winter approaching dairy pastures began to deteriorate in April and production showed the usual seasonal decline. Factory butter output for March and April, 1949 were the best for these months for some years although the total for the ten months ended April, 66.55 mill. lbs, was 1.56 mill. lbs less than last year. However, with increased consumption of fresh milk and in milk powder factories total whole milk production in the State for the ten months ended April, 1949, estimated at 252 mill. gallons was only 2 mill. gall. less than last year. Dairy output in all other States improved during the current season and the Australian total for the nine months was 975 mill. gall. (whole milk equivalent) compared with 960 mill. gall. and 854 mill. gall. in the same period of the two previous seasons.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES, New South Wales.

(in million lbs.)					
P e r i o d	Average 3 Years		1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	1937-38 to 1939-40	1943-44 to 1945-46			
July to April	99.76	70.80	52.10	68.11	66.55
May and June	14.17	7.16	8.28	7.96	...
Y e a r	113.93	77.96	60.38	76.07	...